

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-30 were presented. Claims 1, 7, 9, 12, 17, 19, 20 and 23 are amended, and claims 3, 14, 16 and 25 are canceled, without prejudice. Claims 1, 2, 4-13, 15, 17-24 and 26-30 are now pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3, 7, 9, 10, 16, 17, 19-21 and 25 are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 3 directly depends from claim 1. Claim 1 is rewritten to include all limitations of claim 3, and claim 3 is canceled. Accordingly, claim 1 is now in allowable form.

Claim 7 depends directly from claim 1 and is rewritten to include all limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, claim 7 is now in allowable form.

Claim 9 depends from claim 3 and is amended to depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claim 9 is now in allowable form.

Claim 10 depends from claim 9 and is therefore in allowable form.

Claim 16 directly depends from claim 12. Claim 12 is rewritten to include all limitations of claim 16, and claim 16 is canceled. Accordingly, claim 12 is now in allowable form.

Claim 17 depends from claim 16 and is amended to depend from claim 12. Accordingly, claim 17 is now in allowable form.

Claim 19 depends directly from claim 12 and is rewritten to include all limitations of claim 12. Accordingly, claim 19 is now in allowable form.

Claim 20 depends from intervening claim 14, which depends from claim 12. Claim 20 is rewritten to include all limitations of intervening claim 14 and base claim 12, and base claim 14 is canceled. Accordingly, claim 20 is now in allowable form.

Claim 21 depends from claim 20 and is therefore in allowable form.

Claim 25 depends from intervening claim 23, which depends from claim 12. Intervening claim 23 is rewritten to include all limitations of base claim 12 and dependent claim 25, and claim 25 is canceled. Accordingly, claim 23 is now in allowable form.

The remaining claims of the application depend from the allowable claims discussed above, and are therefore similarly allowable. In particular, claims 2, 4-6, 8, 11, 27 and 29 depend from claim 1; claims 13, 15, 18, 22, 28 and 30 depend from claim 12; and claims 24 and 26 depend from claim 23.

Claim Rejections


Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 11, 27 and 29 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Montierth et al. (US 2003/0011807). Claims 12-15, 18, 22-24, 26, 28 and 30 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Montierth et al. in view of Walker et al. (US 6,557,965). These grounds for rejection are moot in view of the amendment of all claims to incorporate subject matter indicated as allowable by the Action.

Conclusion

This application is now in condition for allowance. The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of this amendment. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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